

Capsule Summary

Inventory No. WA-HAG-208

Beachley Furniture Company

227 North Prospect St.

Hagerstown

Washington County, MD

1907-present

Access: Private

The Beachley Furniture Company is a multipart building with a three-story brick building serving as the primary focal point. This building was constructed in 1907 with additions built throughout the first half of the 20th century. The building fronts on North Prospect Avenue and to its rear are the various rail lines of the Cumberland Railroad and the Pennsylvania Railroad. The sections of brick, frame and concrete block indicated several expansions over the years. In addition to the building is a circular brick smokestack bearing the company's name. The Beachley Furniture Company retains this building as their corporate headquarters and production center.

The Beachley Furniture Company grew along with the middle class during the years following the Civil War. The mechanization of furniture making enabled the production of less expensive products in larger quantities that helped the new middle class furnish their ever-larger homes at the turn of the century. Hagerstown became an ideal place to situate a plant at this period since the expansion of the railroads made the city a central hub and shipping from this location was much easier. The location of the Beachley plant along the edge of the rail yard for several railroad enabled it to have convenient access to transportation of its finished goods as well as its raw materials. (National Register Criteria A)

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-HAG-208

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Beachley Furniture Company, Inc. (preferred) (MIHP update)
other Beachley-Reichard Furniture Co., Inc.

2. Location

street and number 227 North Prospect Street not for publication
city, town Hagerstown vicinity
county Washington

3. Owner of Property

(gives names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Donovan R. Beachley, Jr.
street and number 227 N. Prospect Ave. telephone
city, town Hagerstown state MD zip code 21740

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County courthouse liber 1184 folio 232
city, town Hagerstown tax map 308 tax parcel 548 tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☒ Other: Hagerstown Landmarks Survey

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	1	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	2	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				1	

7. Description

Inventory No. WA-HAG-208

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	excellent	<input type="checkbox"/>	deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/>	good	<input type="checkbox"/>	ruins
<input type="checkbox"/>	fair	<input type="checkbox"/>	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Description Summary

The Beachley Furniture Company is a multipart building with a three-story brick building serving as the primary focal point. This building was constructed in 1907 with additions built throughout the first half of the 20th century. The building fronts on North Prospect Avenue and to its rear are the various rail lines of the Cumberland Railroad and the Pennsylvania Railroad. The sections of brick, frame and concrete block indicated several expansions over the years. In addition to the building is a circular brick smokestack bearing the company's name. The Beachley Furniture Company retains this building as their corporate headquarters and production center.

Description

The Beachley Furniture Company moved to the present location 1907 when the initial part of the current building was built. This building is thirteen bays wide, and three stories tall, and built of brick with a shed roof that slopes to the rear of the building. The metal sashed windows are grouped into pairs by brick pilasters and there is brick corbelling at the cornice. A decorative effect is present on the façade by the rosette-shaped washers securing the iron support rods between floors. The primary entrance to the building is off North Prospect Ave. at the southern third of the building. This is emphasized by a remodeling circa 1960 which included installation of a green granite veneer over the first floor wall, the addition of stainless steel casement windows, and doorway. A planter faced with formstone was installed at the same time running along the sidewalk of the remodeled area. Brass plaques flank the door announcing the name of the company.

The southern side of the building is six bays wide and has an addition of a loading dock that is attached near the rear of the building. It sits back from the street and is two stories tall with stainless steel casement windows on the second floor and two overhead doors on the first floor.

Most of the additions have been built onto the northern side of the building forming an L-shape. The additions are a combination of materials including brick and concrete block. This includes a nine bay, three-story addition to the rear of the initial building built about 1920, a cinder block loading dock area with a large overhead door on the first floor and large, square metal sashed windows above, added circa 1945, and a cinder block building with a stepped roof that has no windows facing N. Prospect Ave. On the flat roof of this addition are three cone-shaped metal ventilators, a larger ventilator of the same design is on the roof of the main building and has the Beachley name painted on it. A small, square, windowless, one-story building is attached to the south corner of this last addition and has a single door on the east side.

To the north end of the building is a circular smokestack made of brick that is approximately six stories tall. Painted in white letters along the length of the stack is "Beachley."

8. Significance

Inventory No. WA-HAG-208

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	
Specific dates	1907-present		Architect/Builder	unknown	
Construction dates	1907				

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary of Significance

The Beachley Furniture Company grew along with the middle class during the years following the Civil War. The mechanization of furniture making enabled the production of less expensive products in larger quantities that helped the new middle class furnish their ever-larger homes at the turn of the century. Hagerstown became an ideal place to situate a plant at this period since the expansion of the railroads made the city a central hub and shipping from this location was much easier. The location of the Beachley plant along the edge of the rail yard for several railroad enabled it to have convenient access to transportation of its finished goods as well as its raw materials. (National Register Criteria A)

Historical Context

[See “Historic Industry in Mid-Maryland” prepared for the Maryland Historical Trust through the Catocin Center for Regional Studies, 2002-2003.]

The Beachley Furniture Company was founded in 1887 by Ezra Beachley and was initially named the Hagerstown Lounge Company after its principle product. The first home of the company was on East Franklin Street in Hagerstown but within two years the building was too small to house the growing concern and the manufactory was moved to South Potomac Street. Day to day operations were run by Ezra Beachley's son Van C. Beachley and the company's product line expanded to include mattresses and bed springs and the extremely popular three piece parlor suite. The suite was exactly what the burgeoning middle class wanted for their new parlors.¹

Beachley moved to its current home on North Prospect St. in 1907 and soon expanded that site as well. Van Beachley died in 1929 and his son Donovan R. Beachley took the reins. In 1933, Beachley took on a partner, his uncle, Lawson F. Reichard, and changed the name to the

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-HAG-208

Name Beachley Furniture Company, Inc.
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Beachley-Reichard Furniture Co. Inc. The company retained this name through World War II when nearly 60% of the firm's output was dedicated to making specialized items for Naval Air Stations.²

In 1946, the company changed its name to the Beachley Furniture Company, Inc. and three years later Donovan Beachley's son, Donovan R. Beachley, Jr. joined the firm. Demand for home furnishings grew as the former GI's built homes and settled down and the company accommodated them by manufacturing fashionable living room furniture. In 1962, the junior Beachley became president and his son David came to work with him as his father and grandfather had in the past. David Beachley became president of Beachley Furniture Company in 1985 and is currently running the company. To compete with cheaper imported goods, the Beachley's have moved into the custom decorator sector, providing traditional furniture through interior decorators and a few select outlets. This strategy has enabled the company to retain a presence in shops from New York City and Washington, D.C. to Omaha, Nebraska and Carmel, California and echoes efforts of similar American factories in the face of foreign competition.

Currently, Beachley Furniture Company is the only factory on North Prospect Street still in operation and one of only a few that have survived the economic shift brought about by the demise of the railroad in Hagerstown.³

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WA-HAG-208

Alvey, III, Richard H. Wings over Hagerstown. Self published: Hagerstown Maryland, 1939.

Beachley-Reichard Furniture Co. "Beachley: A Name Associated with the American Living Room for Fifty Years". Hagerstown, Md., 1937.

"Maryland Manufacturers' War Industry Survey." Maryland War Records Division. Baltimore, Md. 1948.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, microfilm collections, Western Maryland Room, Washington County Free Library, Hagerstown, Md.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.21

Acreage of historical setting 1.21

Quadrangle name Hagerstown, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary is defined by Washington County tax map 308, parcel 548.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Heidi Campbell-Shoaf, Historian

organization Paula Reed & Assoc., Inc.

date August 2003

street & number 105 N. Potomac St.

telephone 301.739.2070

city or town Hagerstown

state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-HAG-208

Name Beachley Furniture Company, Inc.
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

¹ Beachley-Reichard Furniture Co. "Beachley: A Name associated with the American Living Room for Fifty Years". (Hagerstown, Md.: self published, 1937), p. 2-3.; Letter to High School Teachers of Washington County from Beachley Furniture Co., dated 28 September 1953, vertical files, Historical Society of Washington County, Hagerstown, Md.

² Beachley-Reichard Furniture Co., Inc. "Beachley", p. 4.; Maryland Manufacturer's War Industry Survey, (Maryland War Records Division: Baltimore, Md., 1948), p1.

³ Maryland Manufacturers' War Industry Survey, p.1.; Beachley Furniture Company, Inc. website (accessed 23 August 2003) www.beachley.com; "Family Traditions Work at Beachley," Hagerstown Herald-Mail. 16 February 1992.

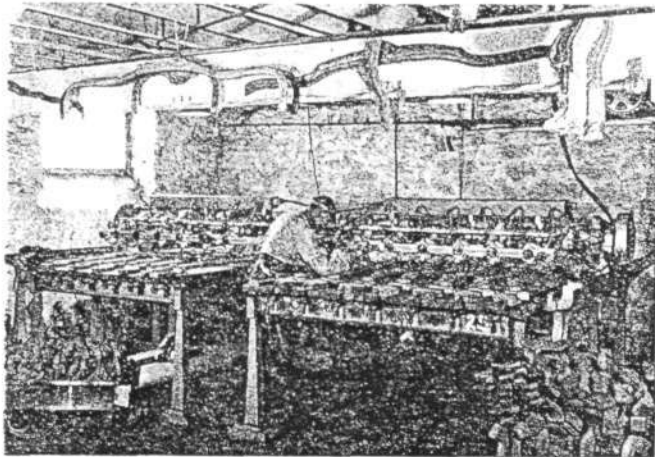
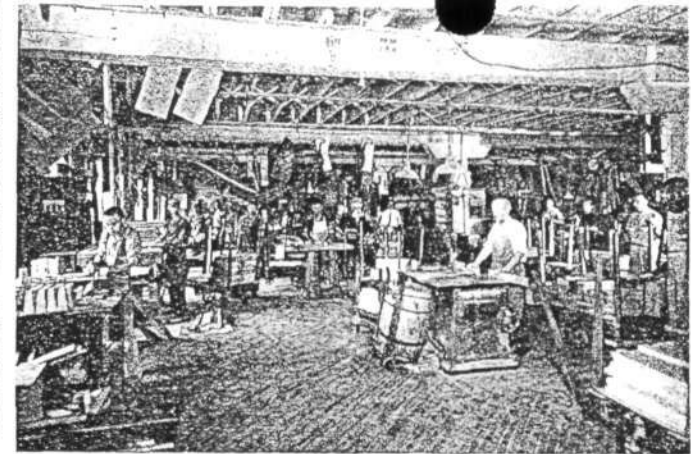
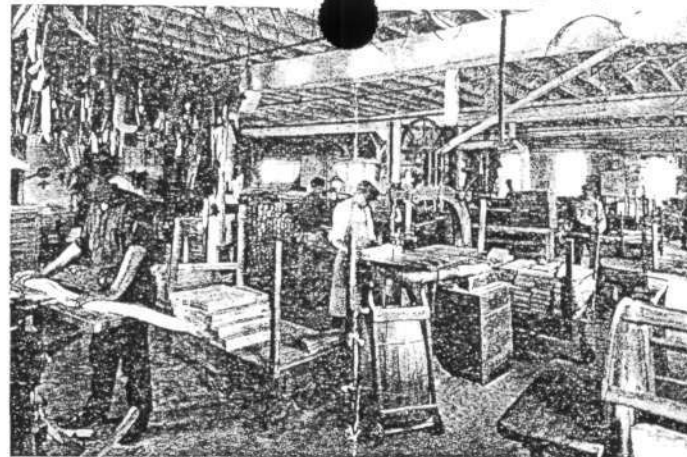
FROM: Wings over Hagerstown
1959
Richard H. Alvey III

Page 20

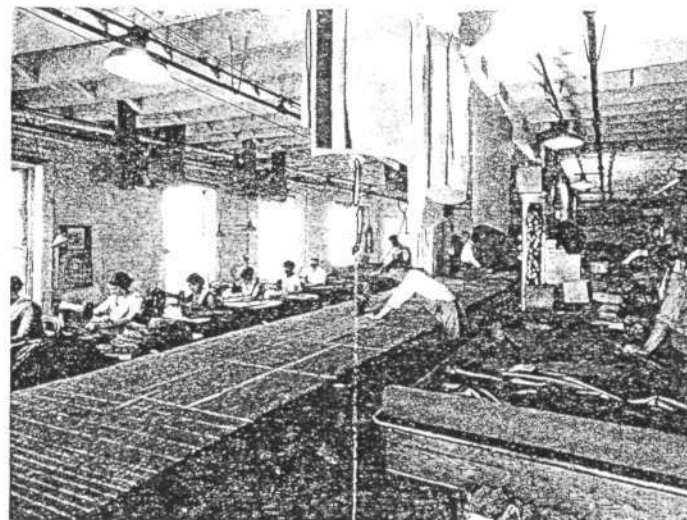
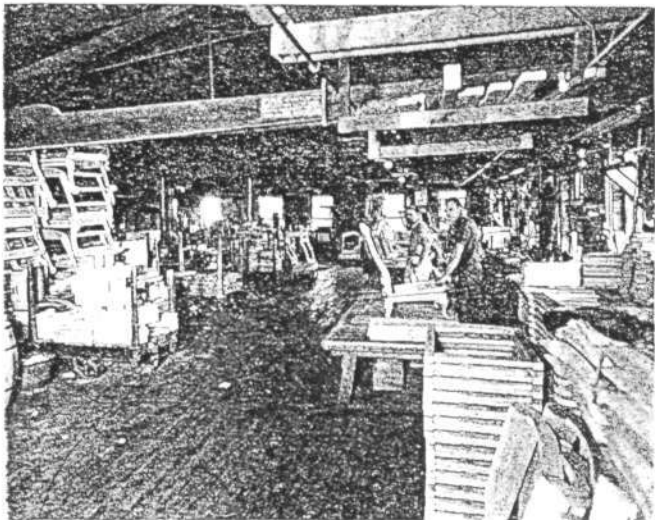
BEACHLEY-REICHARD FURNITURE CO., INC.



WA-HAG-205
BEACHLEY FURNITURE CO.
227 N PROSPECT ST
HAGERSTOWN
WASHINGTON CO., MD



THE ECONOMICAL production of lifetime furniture today entails many intricate operations. Beachley's manufacturing facilities today include the most advanced type of machines utilized in the furniture industry. Acres of floor space are devoted to many departments. Every phase of the furniture making art is applied under one roof by men long associated with the company. The Beachley worker of today has every modern facility to help him turn out fine workmanship . . . yet he is above all a craftsman, schooled in the old fashioned Beachley principle of "Quality first."

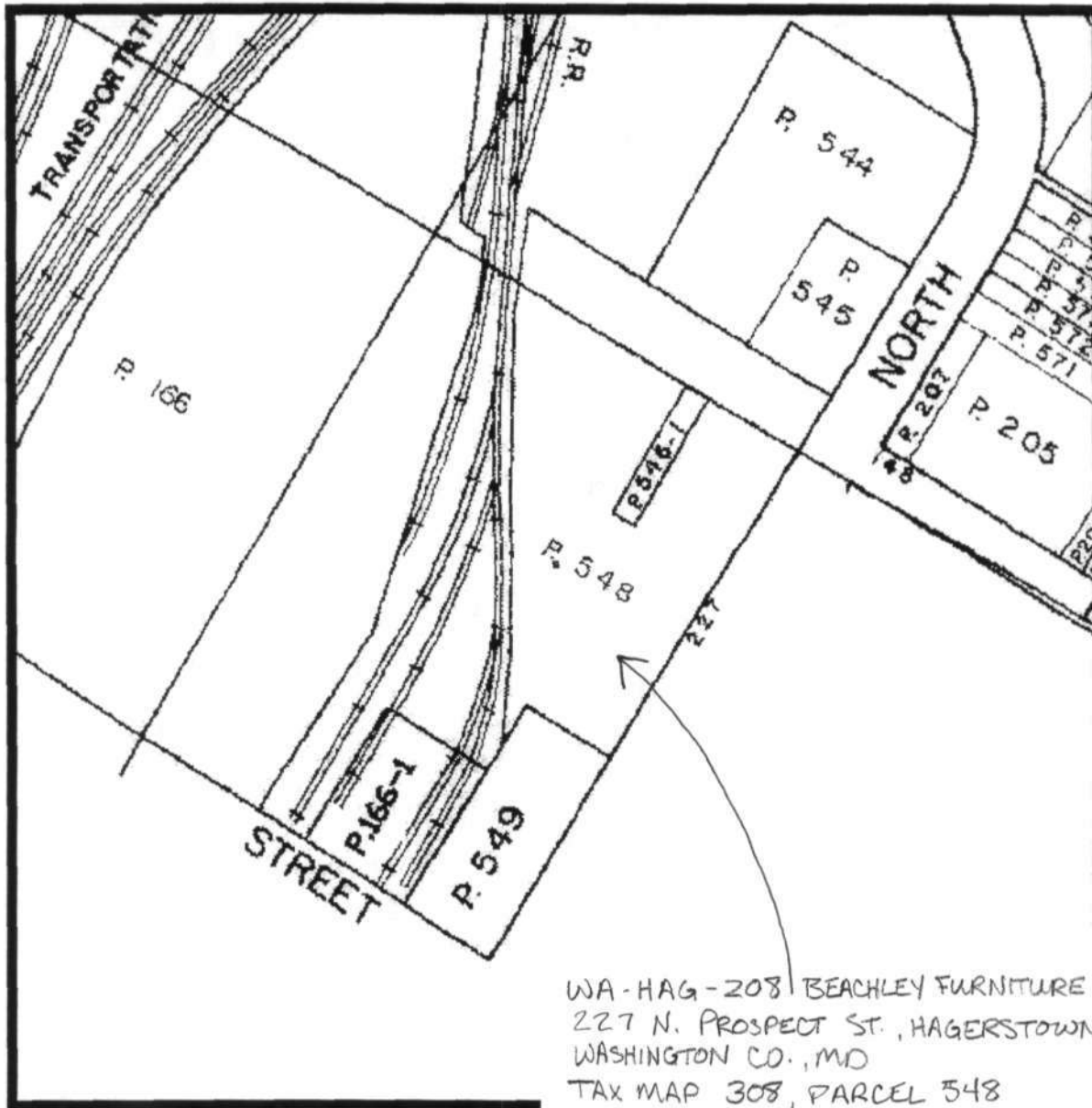




Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
WASHINGTON COUNTY
Real Property Data Search

[Go Back](#)
[View Map](#)
[New Search](#)

District - 25 Account Number - 001303



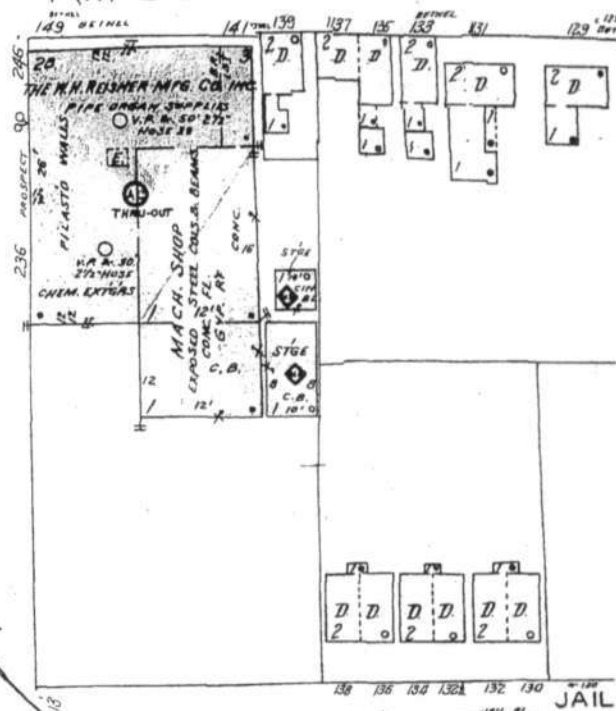
Property maps provided courtesy of the Maryland Department of Planning ©2001.
 For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning
 web site at www.mdp.state.md.us/webcom/index.html

1925

35

THE W. H. REISNER MFG. CO. INC.
MFG. OF PIPE ORGAN SUPPLIES & KING
MINNOW NETS.
WATCHMAN LIGHTS & POWER FLS.
HEAT - STEAM

(W) BETHEL



35

W. BETHEL

W. H. REISNER MFG. CO. INC.
- PIPE ORGAN SUPPLIES

DEACLEY FURNITURE

INTERWOVEN MILLS INC.
HEAT - TURBINE, LIGHT & POWER - ELEC.
WATCHMAN WITH APPROVED CLOCK.
CHEMICAL EXTORS.
HOSIERY MILL

W. CHURCH

WA-HAG-208 BEACHLEY FURNITURE CO.
227 N. PROSPECT ST, HAGERSTOWN
WASHINGTON CO., MD

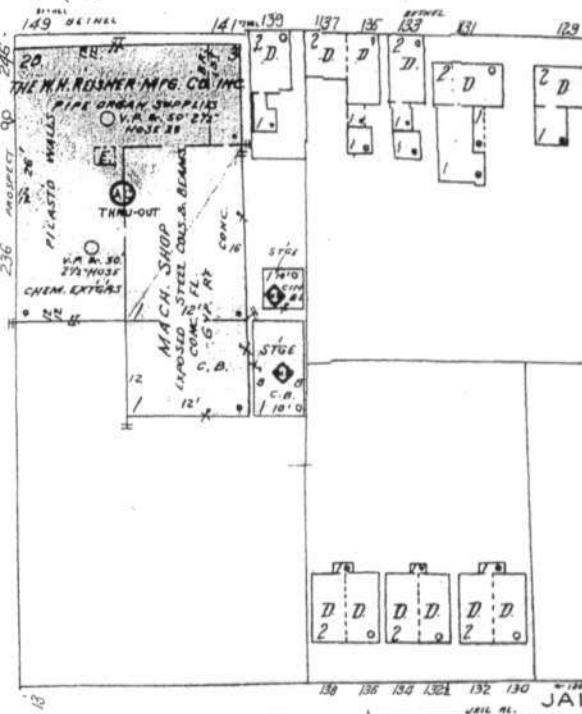
1926 SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE CO. MAP

1951

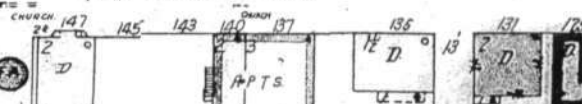
35

THE W. H. RESNER MFG. CO. INC.
MFG. OF PIPE ORGAN SUPPLIES & KING
MINNOW NETS.
WATCHMAN LIGHTS & POWER FLK
HEAT - STEAM

(W) BETHEL

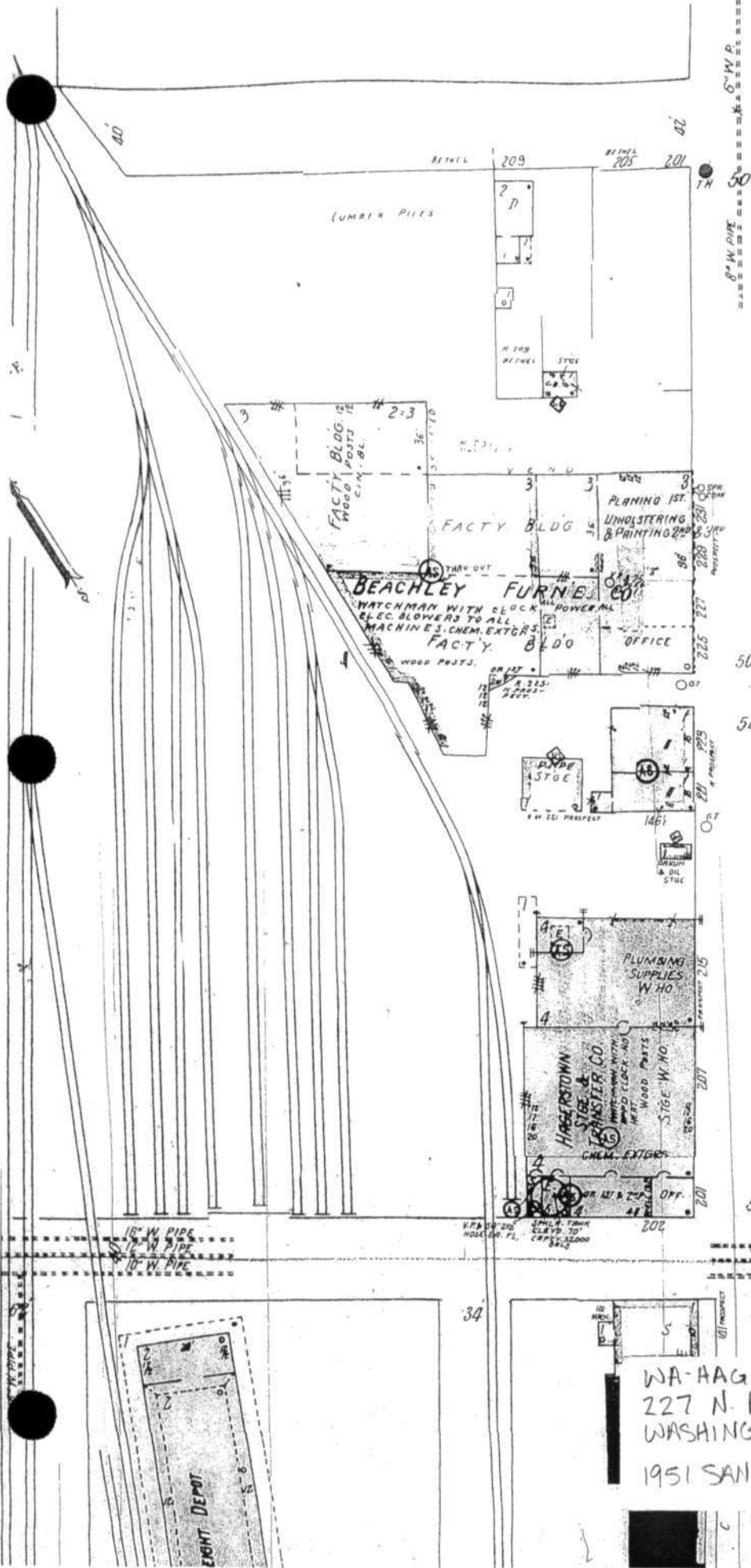


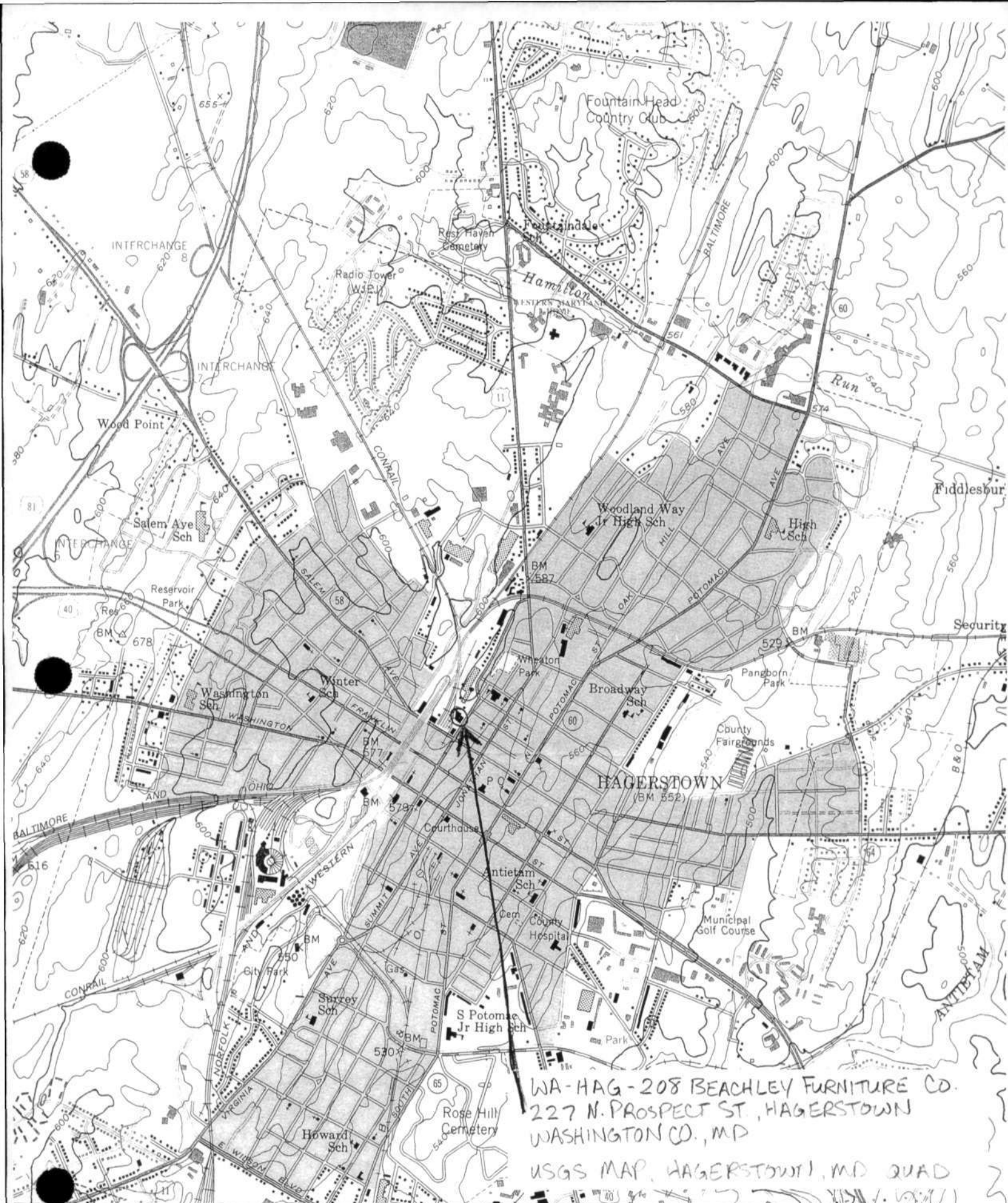
(W) CHURCH



WA-HAG-208 BEACHLEY FURNITURE CO.
227 N. PROSPECT ST., HAGERSTOWN
WASHINGTON CO., MD

1951 SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE CO. MAP







WA-HAG-208

Beachley Furniture Co

227 N. Prospect St

Hagerstown, MD

Washington County

H. Campbell - Street

8/03

MDSHPO

Beachley SE elevation

1/11



WA-HAG-203

Beachley Furniture Co.

227 N. Prospect St

Hagerstown, MD

Washington County

H. Campbell - Shoaf

8/03

MD SHPO

Beachley E elevation viewed facing SW

2/11



WA-HAG-208

Beachley Furniture Co.

227 N. Prospect St

Hagerstown, MD

Washington County

H. Campbell Street

8/03

MD SHPO

N elevation of main building viewed from
N. Prospect St. facing W

3/11



WA-HAG-208

Beachley Furniture Co.

227 N. Prospect St.

Hagerstown, MD

Washington County

H. Campbell-Shoaf

8/03

MDSHPO

Elevation of additions at North of property
viewed from N. Prospect facing W

4/11



WA-HAG-208

Beachley Furniture Co.

227 N. Prospect St.

Hagerstown, MD

Washington County

H. Campbell-Shaaf

8/03

MDSHAD

N end of property viewed from the E on

N. Prospect St.

5/11



WA-HAG-208

Beachley Furniture Co.

227 N. Prospect St

Hagerstown, MD

Washington County

H. Campbell-Shoaf

8/03

MDSHPO

N end of Beachley property viewed from the
N facing SW

6/
11



WA-HAG-208

Beachley Furniture Co

227 N. Prospect St.

Hagerstown, MD

Washington County

H. Campbell-Shaaf

8/03

MDSHPO

View of Beachley Bldg. from E side of N Prospect
St. facing the SW

7/11



WA-HAG-208

Beachley Furniture Co.

227 N. Prospect St.

Hagerstown, MD

Washington County

H. Campbell-Shoof

8/03

MDSTPO

Close up view of E facade of Beachley Bldg
showing detail of wall

8/11



WA-HAG-208

Beachley Furniture Co.

227 N. Prospect St

Hagerstown, MD

Washington County

H. Campbell-Sheaf

8/03

MD SHPO

Send of Main Beachley Bldg and loading dock from
W side of N. Prospect St.

9/11



WA-HAG-208

Beachley Furniture Co.

227 N. Prospect St.

Hagerstown, MD

Washington County

H. Campbell-Shoaf

8/03

MDSHPO

W elevation of Beachley Bldg. viewed from lot to
the SW looking NE

10/
41



WA-HAG-208

Beachley Furniture Co

227 N. Prospect St.

Hagerstown, MD

Washington County

H. Campbell-Shoaf

8/03

MDSHPO

Modern outbuilding at NW end of Beachley
complex viewed from East



Site # WA-HAG-208

Date: 1887, 1920s

Property Name: (Historic) Hagerstown Lounge Company
(Present) Beachley Furniture Company

Location: 227 North Prospect Street
Hagerstown, Maryland

Access: private X, public ____

Description:

This factory building is a three story brick structure, 17 bays long on its North Prospect Street facade. After every two bays is a vertical brick pilaster, and several courses of brick corbeling finish the wall at the top. A glazed tile surface has been added to the first story at the south end of the building, probably in the 1960s. The north end may incorporate some of the original 1887 factory building.

Significance:

The Beachley Furniture Company (formerly known as the Beachley Reichard Furniture Company) was established in 1887 on this site as the Hagerstown Lounge Company which produced lounge chairs and parlor furniture. It was located along the Cumberland Valley, later Pennsylvania Railroad near that system's terminal and roundhouse. It is one of several furniture manufacturing concerns that flourished in Hagerstown in the early 20th century and gave the city a reputation as a center for manufacture of furniture. The Beachley Furniture Company continues to manufacture furniture today.

Historic Context:

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Economic/Social/Cultural
Architecture

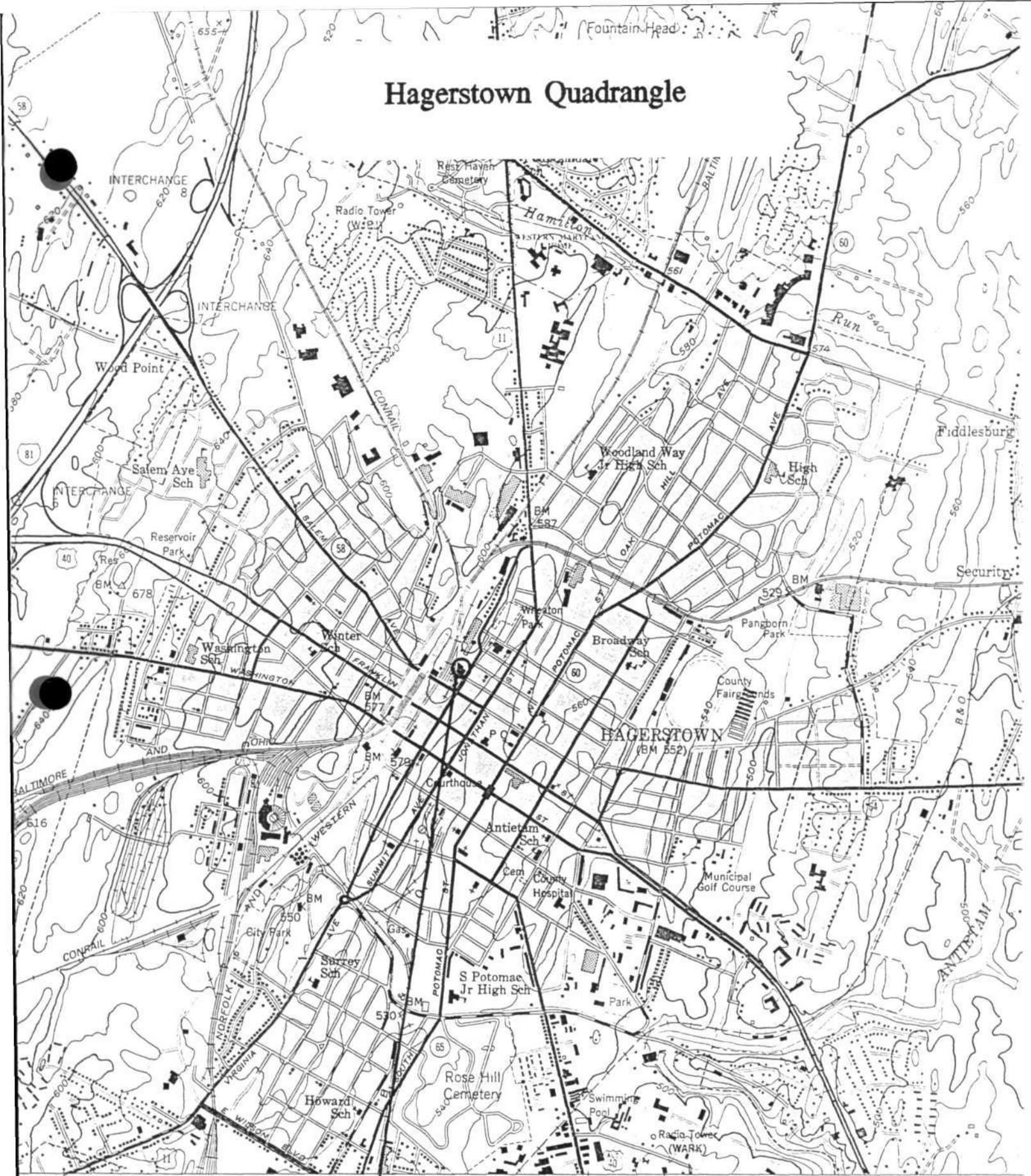
Resource Type: Rail-Related Resources

Category: Industrial

Prepared By: Paula S. Reed, PhD, Architectural Historian
Preservation Associates, Inc.
117 S. Potomac Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Date: June 10, 1992

Hagerstown Quadrangle



590 000 FEET (MD.) 265
 WILLIAMSPORT 4.3 MI.
 WINSBURG, W. VA. 19 MI.
 42°30' FUNKSTOWN 1.3 MI. FREDERICK 24 MI. FREDERICK 22 MI. BALTIMORE 67 MI. 269 (FUT 5-)

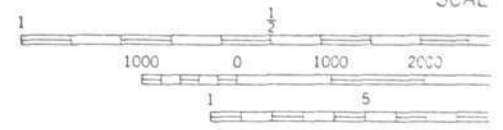
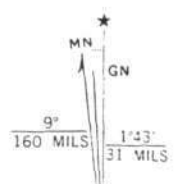
WA-HAG-208

BEACHLEY FURNITURE CO.

SCALE

the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army
 and published by the Geological Survey
 by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCE

graphy by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
 1943. Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1953
 nic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Maryland
 nate system and Pennsylvania coordinate system. south zone
 meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 8. shown in blue



CONTOUR IN



Beachley Furniture Co.

WA-HAG-208

Washington Co. MD

East Elevation, NW view

5/92 Maureen Ireland, Preservation Assoc.

11A